

## **RUSSIA TASKFORCE REPORT TO COUNCIL MEETING OF 30 NOVEMBER 2022**

1. In November 2021, the 53rd World Athletics Congress resolved that the suspension of RusAF's membership of World Athletics should continue until Council decides that all of the conditions set by Council for RusAF's reinstatement have been met.
2. In March 2022, in response to the invasion of Ukraine, Council decided to exclude Russian and Belarussian athletes, support personnel and officials from World Athletics Series events until further notice, but said that the Taskforce should nevertheless continue its work monitoring and overseeing RusAF's attempts to meet the reinstatement conditions. The Taskforce reminds Council that the Taskforce's consideration of progress of the reinstatement plan has no bearing on any Council decision on RusAF arising from the war in Ukraine.
3. In October/November 2022, an independent audit was carried out of RusAF's progress against the requirements in the Reinstatement Plan approved by Council in March 2021. RusAF passed that audit, subject to taking two remedial measures (adding certain protections to its whistleblower policy, and formalising its policy for development of anti-doping and integrity in the regions). Last week, the Taskforce met here in Rome with the lead auditor and the international experts to discuss the audit report. It noted their views, including the following:
  - 3.1. Under Acting President Irina Privalova, the current RusAF leadership team has embedded a new culture of good governance and zero tolerance for doping throughout the organisation. This is evidenced in (for example) RusAF's transparency (all rules, regulations, and policies are posted on the RusAF website and publicised widely in social media), and its educational efforts (including delivery of values-based anti-doping education for 13,000 young athletes), as well as in its reporting of historic anti-doping rule violations (**ADRVs**) uncovered in the Moscow Laboratory Information Management System (**LIMS**) (instead of suggesting that the athletes involved are the victims of an international conspiracy, RusAF freely acknowledges and rejects their cheating).<sup>1</sup>
  - 3.2. RusAF has established a regional council to facilitate the representation and participation of the regional federations in the governance of Russian athletics and provided anti-doping and integrity training to those regional federations. RusAF also has established a system to rate them based on anti-doping and integrity criteria.
  - 3.3. Following positive changes at senior leadership level, RUSADA also appears to be working effectively at an operational level. In particular, it has developed a test distribution plan that includes more than 2,000 domestic tests of Russian track & field athletes per year, most of which are out-of-competition tests. That testing has not resulted in many positive findings. Provided that the testing is of sufficient quality (i.e., if it is based on intelligence and sound risk assessment principles), that low level of positives is encouraging. The Taskforce will secure and carefully consider the views of test distribution experts before coming to any final conclusion.
4. The Taskforce is encouraged by these facts. In particular, the Taskforce noted that RusAF has undertaken certain important steps of its own initiative, i.e., that were not required as part of the Reinstatement Plan. For example, RusAF has published its ratings of the regions on its website, which transparency has created healthy competition between the regions in implementing sustainable change. RusAF has also worked with the Ministry of Sport to ensure

---

<sup>1</sup> In July, I reported that the AIU had been unsuccessful in its efforts to obtain certain outstanding LIMS data from the Moscow laboratory, and therefore had closed its investigation into the matter for the time being. The Taskforce does not consider that this should prevent the lifting of the suspension of RusAF's membership, but it will recommend that the Post-Reinstatement Conditions include a specific requirement that if those data are subsequently found, they must be passed on to the AIU for results management purposes.

that government-funded athletes are fined for any single whereabouts violation (i.e., even if they do not commit three in 12 months, which would constitute an ADRV). In addition, the Taskforce was encouraged to hear that RUSADA receives more whistle-blowing reports about athletics than about any other sport in Russia, and the number of such reports is the same ballpark, proportionately, as WADA, the AIU, and others receive from their hotlines. The Taskforce takes these developments as evidence that cultural change is starting to take root in Russian athletics.

5. The Taskforce is not naïve, however. It acknowledges that widespread and sustainable cultural change will likely take many years to embed, and regions and stakeholders will inevitably proceed at different paces and with different degrees of support for that change. Furthermore, RusAF remains subject to the oversight and control of the Russian Government, and the Taskforce notes with concern the decision of the RUSADA disciplinary commission not to publish its findings in the case of ice-skater Kamila Valieva, which indicates that not all parts of the domestic anti-doping framework are operating as robustly and independently as they should. However, the Taskforce takes comfort from the following:
  - 5.1. First, it is the clear view of the auditors and the international experts that the processes and procedures that the new RusAF leadership have put in place will impede the emergence of any recidivist influences, and will ensure that if they do emerge, they will be detectable by any observer.
  - 5.2. Second, the close monitoring and oversight of RusAF's operations will not end when its suspension from membership of World Athletics is lifted. Instead the AIU will take over that task from the Taskforce, and will have one staff member full-time in RusAF's offices in Moscow and another staff member at the AIU who are specifically tasked with monitoring RusAF's fulfilment of a detailed set of Post-Reinstatement Conditions that will go substantially beyond the requirements currently imposed on so-called 'Category A' federations. That monitoring and oversight – the costs of which will all be paid by RusAF – should ensure that any material backsliding is quickly detected.
  - 5.3. Third, to ensure no one is tempted to interfere, the Taskforce will recommend that Council resolve that any material breach of the Post-Reinstatement Conditions will trigger a Council proposal that Congress expels RusAF permanently from membership of World Athletics.
6. The Taskforce now needs to finalise the proposed Post-Reinstatement Conditions with the AIU, including to reflect the audit report findings and recommendations. RusAF also needs to maintain its current progress without blemish, and to stay up to date on its payment of all Taskforce-related costs.<sup>2</sup> In addition, the Taskforce wishes to meet with the RusAF leadership team again after Peter Ivanov returns to the post of RusAF President on 17 December 2022 (when the two-year period of WADA sanctions ends), to obtain satisfactory confirmation of their and RusAF's enduring and unconditional commitment to the Post-Reinstatement Conditions.
7. Subject to these points, however, the Taskforce will be in a position by March 2023 to make a final recommendation to Council on the reinstatement of RusAF. The Taskforce intends to ask World Athletics to hold a Council meeting on the proposed Post-Reinstatement Conditions before presenting that final recommendation. Accordingly, the Council is not being asked to make a decision today, but is simply asked to note that the Taskforce's work overseeing and monitoring RusAF continues. The Taskforce looks forward to reporting back to Council by March 2023.

Rune Andersen, Taskforce Chair

30 November 2022

---

<sup>2</sup> In October 2022, RusAF was invoiced USD\$ 230,092.44 for the reinstatement costs incurred by World Athletics in the quarter ending 30 September 2022. RusAF has paid that invoice in full.